

The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIV.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 5, 1863.

NUMBER 326.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY
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OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over
Stone's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

THE BATTLE AT MURFREESBORO'.

From the confused mass of telegraphic matter from Tennessee it appears that the grand battle at Murfreesboro' did not commence on Tuesday, as previously reported, but on Wednesday, and that it was renewed from day to day with varying successes and heavy losses on both sides until Saturday, since when no further information has been received. The second dispatch sent on Saturday stated that the Federal troops had not occupied Murfreesboro' at that time, but the next says that a Federal cavalry force had reached a point nine miles below the town, while the fourth and last dispatch makes no mention of the occupation of the place. No estimate of the losses is given, but it is stated that the casualties among the Federal officers has been very great. Gen. Bragg, of the Confederate army, is reported to be among the killed on that side. It is clear, however, that the battle has been the most desperately contested of the war, both armies being about the same in number, and composed of veteran troops, commanded by skilful and experienced officers.

Confederate accounts of the battle to the 1st inst. claim that the Federal army yielded its strong point on that day and was falling back, leaving the whole field in possession of the Southern troops, who were to follow in pursuit. The Confederate cavalry made two circuits of the Federal army, capturing wagon trains and a large number of arms. These dispatches are from General Bragg, since reported as killed. The same officer reports that the expedition sent out under Col. Forrest was entirely successful, destroying the railroads and stores, and capturing some twelve hundred prisoners. Gen. Morgan is said to have accomplished the object of his movement to Kentucky.

Steps have been taken by Baker and his assistants for the arrest and punishment of stewards, nurses, and attendants in hospitals who have been engaged in robbing the invalid soldiers, of many of the comforts and luxuries sent to them by sympathizing friends. It is charged that an extensive system of robbery has been carried on in this way for some months past.

A Suffolk, Va., correspondent under date of January 3d, announces the return of Major Gen. Peck, and the review of Gen. Corcoran's Irish Brigade. The Confederates are reported to be very bold along the line of the Blackwater, and the belief is expressed, that we may look for some stirring news from that quarter in a very few days.

The issue of letters of marque and reprisal is recommended by New York merchants as a measure of security from future maritime captures by the Confederates.

Another Expedition.

[Special Dispatch to the Philadelphia Press.]

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 1.—There have been stirring times here, for some days past, among the troops and war vessels.

General Naglee's Division was embarked on transports at Yorktown and Gloucester Point, yesterday, and have spent their New Year's Day riding the billows in Hampton Roads.

Many other transports, loaded with troops, stores, &c., arrived, and joined the expedition.

The fleet is now putting to sea, and comprises about enough men of all arms to take and hold any point on the Southern coast.

The destination of this expedition is supposed to be North Carolina; but, as a number of iron-clads accompany it, I presume it will go to some important Southern Port—say Charleston, Georgetown, Savannah, or Mobile.

At any rate, it will soon be at its destination, and, wherever it goes, a heavy blow will be struck.

The flag-ship is the steamship Woodbury, which has General Naglee and staff on board. It is not known whether he will command the whole force or not—his own division comprising twelve regiments, including the 104th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

There are about two thousand patients in the military hospitals at Alexandria. The hospitals are divided into three divisions—the first, under the supervision of Dr. Summers; the second, under Dr. Spencer; and the third, under Dr. Bently. These gentlemen are assisted by competent surgeons.

Heavy firing was heard yesterday, in the distance, and there are reports of further skirmishes and movements not far from Alexandria.

Some few of the Northern papers indulge in severe comments upon President Lincoln's proclamation.

Gen. Blunt reports that the Confederates in Arkansas have retreated to Arkadelphia, Ark. The Confederate works at Fort Gibson, in Indian Territory, have been destroyed and the garrison compelled to retreat across the Arkansas river.

The Confederate pickets along the Rappahannock opposite Falmouth have been increased to such a number within a few days past that it was expected that the movement covered some project to cross. It is stated that the Federal forces are fully prepared to meet such a movement.

Gen. Grant telegraphs to the War Department that the Confederates under Colonel Forrest have been defeated and many of them taken prisoners, with their artillery. Gen. Van Dorn, he says, has been repulsed at every point, except at Holly Springs. The Mobile and Ohio railroad has been destroyed at two different points.

There are again reports started in Washington, that General Burnside wishes to resign.

FROM VICKSBURG.

The siege of Vicksburg was abandoned by the Federal fleet on the 24th of July last, and has been renewed, this time by a combined land and naval force. Information is received that the Federal forces moved upon Vicksburg from the Yazoo on Saturday, the 27th ult., and drove the Confederates from their entrenchments. On Sunday a concentrated movement was made by the whole force and the Confederate works carried by storm. Richmond papers of Wednesday last gives the Southern version of the affair with later intelligence.—The dispatches state that the Federal troops attempted to capture their works on Saturday and failed. On Sunday they again tried it, but failed. On Monday there was a third attempt, and another failure; and at the date of the dispatch (Tuesday) fighting still continued, with no important results. The Federal army is said to have lost heavily, while the Confederate loss was small. The Federal troops have destroyed a large portion of the railroad running west from Vicksburg, toward Shreveport, La., and burned the village of Delhi.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

The Richmond Enquirer learns that General Milroy is leaving Moorfield and Williamsport for Romney.

A lady in Baltimore has presented Major General Gustavus Smith with a beautiful silk battle flag.

Richard Yeadon, of Charleston, S. C., offers \$10,000 for the capture of General Butler.

Over sixteen hundred Federal prisoners are now in Libby prison, Richmond, awaiting exchange.

The Confederate Congress meets on the 12th inst.

Major Isaac M. Cook, paymaster, has been arrested in Cincinnati, for the defalcation of a quarter of a million of dollars. The money was lost by gambling. Simultaneous arrests were made of gamblers at Cincinnati, Cairo, Chicago, Louisville, and other places. About \$70,000 have been recovered at Cairo.

One hundred guns in honor of the emancipation proclamation were fired in Pittsburg.

Jeremiah Moore, sr., John Marshall, and Henry Lee Howard, of Maryland, have been committed to the Old Capitol by Provost Marshal Doster.

The National Intelligencer reviews at some three columns length, the President's Emancipation Proclamation; questions his right to repeal or suspend State laws respecting slavery; argues that the proclamation is inefficacious as a war measure; of little utility to the slave, as all the freedom he will gain under the proclamation will result from the law of force, and not at all from the declaratory portion of the President's decree.

General Grant has issued an order expelling "Jews, as a class," from his department, and the order is being enforced, even in Paducah.